




# Sully Spotlight

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March 2009

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# LOCK THAT DOOR!

MPO W. M. Brock

Theft is most often a crime of opportunity. Providing a would-be thief with an opportunity sets the sequence of events in motion. Without an opportunity, the thief most likely would move along to an easier target.

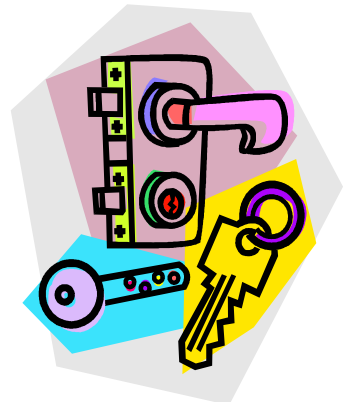
I hear many folks say, "I don't lock my car doors because I don't want someone busting my window out." We take many reports of vehicles specifically targeted because the doors were left unlocked. Thus, if the doors were locked, it would create one more hurdle for a thief to overcome. If you create several hurdles, many times a thief will move along to that easier target. Why should they risk getting caught if they do not have to.

In addition to locking your doors, always remove any item of value from inside of your vehicle such as a laptop, GPS unit, aftermarket stereo (detachable faceplate). If you cannot remove the item, at least store it in a place where it is not readily visible! If the item is present and visible, it creates a desire. Desire is another element necessary for a crime to take place.

Along with locking your car doors, you also need to lock the doors to your house. Do this even if you are out in the yard working. There are thieves that find a lone individual working in the yard to be an invitation to steal. While one individual distracts you with idle chatter, their partner is in your house helping themselves to whatever they want.

Another must is to lower your garage door if you are not around. There are criminals that specifically target houses where the garage doors have been left open.

Start doing this every time you park your car or leave your house and it will become second nature to you. In addition, you will make yourself less of an inviting target for crime!



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## Events of Interest

**April 8- SALT Meeting  
at Sully Senior Center-  
11:00 a.m.**

**April 21- CAC Meeting-  
Sully Police Station-  
7:00 p.m.**

# Teddies for Tots

By: MPO W. M. Brock & Leslie Jenuleson

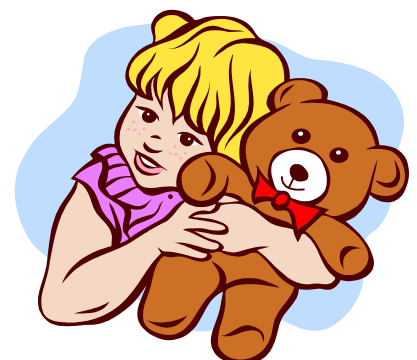
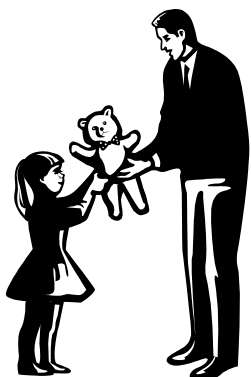


The Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) of the Sully District Police Station is starting a Teddies For Tots Program. The goal is to equip all police cruisers with teddy bears. Leslie Jenuleson, Chair of the CAC, says this is a great way to do something positive for the community and to show the officers that we care. It will also ensure that a child in crisis would have a teddy bear to comfort them. This can have a very positive impact on children who have experienced a serious accident or other event in their lives. Teddies are given primarily to children, but at times, teddies can also be useful for senior citizens or adults. It will be up to the officers when to use their teddy bears because every situation is unique.

Once Sully District is equipped with enough bears, our goal is to reach out to Fire Station 438 and the Fair Oaks District Police Station. Anyone can get involved by purchasing new bears (they must be new due to allergies). The bears also need to fit inside a one gallon zip-lock bag and can be dropped off at the Sully District Police Station, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA 20151.

This came about from a similar program in Volusia County, Florida. Kimberly Canada, Leslie Jenuleson's neighbor, mentioned that her grandmother, Dorothy Lenz, was a contributor to the Volusia County program. She had sent a few newspaper articles written about Teddies for Tots to Kim. Kim thought it would be a great program to implement at the Sully District Police Station. She believes that during a crisis, a police officer can help ease the pain and bring security and solace to a child who has been in the middle of a domestic violence situation, a car accident or a house fire, if only for a moment.

A word of thanks should also go out to Jamie Gadley, a Third Grade Teacher at Eagle View Elementary School in Fairfax County. She has also assisted in initiating the program. She believes that it will leave a positive and lasting impression on children who have experienced a traumatic or stressful situation.



# TORNADO AWARENESS

By: MPO W. M. Brock

Would you know what to do in the event that a tornado watch or warning is issued in your area? Tornadoes do not just strike in the mid-west they can develop at any time in any place. Here are some steps that you can take to be prepared should the need arise. Know the basics:

☞ A **tornado watch** means that conditions are favorable for a tornado to develop.

☞ A **tornado warning** means that a tornado has been sighted or identified by National Weather Service Doppler radar and could possibly be headed your way. If a **tornado warning** is issued, take cover at once.

Start now by developing a home tornado plan in case a tornado warning is issued or a tornado strikes. This plan should include what to do in the event that you are away from home, as well. If you are indoors, try to seek the lowest floor possible. Avoid rooms with windows, if possible. If you are in a high rise building and cannot make it to a lower floor, move to the center of the building.

Prepare a safety kit with first aid supplies, a supply of any prescription medication you may be taking, a flashlight, a battery-powered radio, extra batteries, canned food, a manual can opener, bottled water, sturdy work boots and gloves. You should also have instructions on how to turn off utilities in your home (ie: natural gas or electricity).

If you are outside, lie flat in a ditch or natural depression. Cover your head with your hands and watch out for flying debris. This is what causes most fatalities and injuries during a tornado.

## Did you know:

☞ A tornado is nature's most violent storm.

☞ They are spawned from thunderstorms.

☞ A tornado may strike quickly with no warning.

☞ The average forward speed of a tornado is 30 miles per hour, but can range from being stationary to 70 miles per hour.

☞ Dust, dirt and debris picked up by a tornado give the funnel definition.

☞ Tornadoes are most likely to occur between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m., but can occur at any time.

☞ Tornadoes are most frequently reported east of the Rocky Mountains during spring and summer months.

☞ Peak tornado season in the southern states is March through May; in the northern states, it is late spring through early summer.





# Announcements



- ☞ April is Sexual Violence Awareness Month. The goal is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent it. For more information on this, please check out these links:

<http://www.vsdvalliance.org/>

<http://www.nsvrc.org/>

- ☞ Street Smart Pedestrian Program: Awareness and Enforcement, March 23-April 19.  
See Traffic Trivia for more information.
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## RECENT CRIME TRENDS

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- ☞ GPS thefts continue to rise. If you leave a GPS unit on your dash or mounted to your windshield in an unattended vehicle, you are asking for trouble. Please remove all GPS units and other items of value from your vehicle. **Keep your vehicle locked at all times!**
- ☞ Theft of wheels from parked vehicles.
- ☞ Theft of catalytic converters from parked vehicles.
- ☞ Graffiti is on the rise...especially with the warmer weather coming. Not all graffiti is gang-related, but it does need to be reported to the police.

Remember that theft is often a crime of opportunity. Let us strive to prevent this opportunity. Report all suspicious activity to the police.

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## CRIME PREVENTION TIDBITS

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- ☞ Do not leave your garage door open when you are not around. There are individuals that specifically target garages with open doors.
- ☞ Treat the door between your garage and your house as an exterior door. The door should be a solid core door with a deadbolt lock.
- ☞ Do not store or hide a spare key to your house outside.
- ☞ We are still having issues with this one...I will say it again...(Lock your vehicle and remove all valuables!!!)
- ☞ Do not open your door to strangers. Every door should be equipped with a window or viewer. Know who is on the other side before you open it!



# Sully District Station Child Seat Inspections

Is your child seat installed properly? Is it the correct seat for your child's age and weight? Did you know that your Sully District Station offers free child seat inspections by certified technicians? **Next available dates:** April 9 5:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.

April 16

5:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

April 23

5:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

April 30

5:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.



No appointment is necessary. Our technicians request that you make an effort to install your child safety seats yourself, so that they may properly inspect and make adjustments, as necessary. For additional child seat inspection times, you can call the Fairfax County Operations Support Bureau at 703-280-0559.

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## CAC Corner



The Sully District Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) met on March 17 at the Sully District Station. MPO Pete Masood, K-9 handler, spoke to the group about the Canine Unit and how they operate. The Officer of the Quarter results were announced: 1st Place, MPO Tim Benedict and 2nd Place PFC Joe Shields. Congratulations to each of them!

The "Teddies for Tots" program, was also launched. (see article on page 2)

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday April 21 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting place will be the Sully District Police Station. Please come and join us!



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## Traffic Trivia

By PFC P. B. Katinsky



This month in conjunction with the Street Smart (Pedestrian Safety) Campaign we will discuss the following laws: How and where pedestrians can cross highways; drivers to stop for pedestrians and pedestrian control signals.

We have many laws in Virginia to help protect drivers and pedestrians on our roadways. Unfortunately, many of us do not know the laws pertaining to pedestrians and some just choose to not obey the laws. All too often I see drivers not stopping for pedestrians attempting cross the roadway legally. I also see pedestrians who assume that they have the right of way no matter what. They walk right out with disregard for approaching traffic. Pedestrians DO NOT always have the right of way and the law is very clear about it.

### § 46.2-925. Pedestrian control signals.

*Whenever pedestrian control signals exhibiting the words, numbers, or symbols meaning "Walk" or "Don't Walk" are in place such signals shall indicate and apply to pedestrians as follows:*

*Walk.* - Pedestrians facing such signal may proceed across the highway in the direction of the signal and shall be given the right-of-way by the drivers of all vehicles.

*Don't Walk.* - No pedestrian shall start to cross the highway in the direction of such signal, but any pedestrian who has partially completed his crossing on the Walk signal shall proceed to a sidewalk or safety island and remain there while the Don't Walk signal is showing.

(1974, c. 347, § 46.1-231.1; 1989, c. 727; 2008, c. 451.)

**§ 46.2-923. How and where pedestrians to cross highways.**

*When crossing highways, pedestrians shall not carelessly or maliciously interfere with the orderly passage of vehicles. They shall cross, wherever possible, only at intersections or marked crosswalks. Where intersections contain no marked crosswalks, pedestrians shall not be guilty of negligence as a matter of law for crossing at any such intersection or between intersections when crossing by the most direct route.*

*The governing body of any town or city or the governing body of a county authorized by law to regulate traffic may by ordinance permit pedestrians to cross an intersection diagonally when all traffic entering the intersection has been halted by lights, other traffic control devices, or by a law-enforcement officer.*

(Code 1950, § 46-243; 1958, c. 541, § 46.1-230; 1966, c. 706; 1976, c. 322; 1981, c. 163; 1989, c. 727.)



**§ 46.2-924. Drivers to stop for pedestrians; installation of certain signs; penalty.**

*A. The driver of any vehicle on a highway shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian crossing such highway:*

- 1. At any clearly marked crosswalk, whether at mid-block or at the end of any block;*
- 2. At any regular pedestrian crossing included in the prolongation of the lateral boundary lines of the adjacent sidewalk at the end of a block;*
- 3. At any intersection when the driver is approaching on a highway or street where the legal maximum speed does not exceed 35 miles per hour.*

*B. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A of this section, at intersections or crosswalks where the movement of traffic is being regulated by law-enforcement officers or traffic control devices, the driver shall yield according to the direction of the law-enforcement officer or device.*

*No pedestrian shall enter or cross an intersection in disregard of approaching traffic. The drivers of vehicles entering, crossing, or turning at intersections shall change their course, slow down, or stop if necessary to permit pedestrians to cross such intersections safely and expeditiously.*

*Pedestrians crossing highways at intersections shall at all times have the right-of-way over vehicles making turns into the highways being crossed by the pedestrians.*

*C. The governing body of Arlington County, Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, the County of Loudoun and any town therein, and the City of Alexandria, may by ordinance provide for the installation and maintenance of highway signs at marked crosswalks specifically requiring operators of motor vehicles, at the locations where such signs are installed, to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians crossing or attempting to cross the highway. Any operator of a motor vehicle who fails at such locations to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians as required by such signs shall be guilty of a traffic infraction punishable by a fine of no less than \$100 or more than \$500. The Commonwealth Transportation Board shall develop criteria for the design, location, and installation of such signs. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any limited access highway.*

*(Code 1950, §§ 46-243, 46-244; 1958, c. 541, § 46.1-231; 1962, c. 471; 1968, c. 165; 1972, c. 576; 1976, c. 322; 1989, c. 727; 2000, c. 323; 2002, c. 327; 2004, c. 658; 2007, c. 813.)*

In today's world we are all very busy and usually in a hurry to get where we are going. Just remember it's better to be safe than sorry. **Drivers** please be alert and yield to pedestrians attempting to cross our roadways. **Pedestrians** let's not forget our part of traffic safety. Cross legally without carelessly interfering with traffic.



# Fairfax County and Partners Present: **Free“CarFit”**

To improve the  
**Comfort, Control and  
Safety** of your car!

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Calling all older drivers! Register now for a free 12-point **CarFit** screening! In just 20 minutes you'll leave with car adjustment recommendations for safer driving. If you like, we'll also check your car fluids and tire pressure.

Call now — [you must register](#) for an appointment.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, April 21, 1—4 p.m.

**WHERE:** Fairfax Corner Satellite Parking Lot (Monument Drive and Government Center Parkway), Fairfax

**CALL NOW FOR A FREE APPOINTMENT:** [703-324-5425](tel:703-324-5425),  
TTY 703-449-1186

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**CarFit** was created by the American Society of Aging and with the American Automobile Association, AARP, and the American Occupational Therapy Association. It's supported by the Virginia Department for the Aging Grand Driver Program.

Sponsored by the Department of Family  
Services' Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, the Fairfax  
County Police Department , Mid-Atlantic Foundation  
for Safety and Education and the American Automobile  
Association Mid-Atlantic Region.

To request ADA reasonable accommodations or to  
receive this flier in an alternative format call  
703-324-5425, TTY 703-449-1186.







## Support the Fairfax County Police Department CANTEEN



## Save your caps and flaps!

The Citizens Police Academy alumni are collecting Coke bottle caps and 12-pack flaps for the FCPD Canteen. The Canteen provides needed refreshments to officers during critical incidents. Reward points from caps and flaps will be redeemed for free refreshments from Coke. You can drop off any caps and flaps that are collected at the Sully District Police Station, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA 20151.

***Thanks for your support!***

*Sponsored by the Fairfax County Citizens Police Academy  
Alumni Association*



Sully District Police Station  
4900 Stonecroft Boulevard  
Chantilly, VA 20151

Main Phone 703-814-7000  
Fax 703-814-7013

**File a Report online**  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/crs](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/crs)

**Virginia Amber Alert**  
<http://www.vaamberalert.com>

**Aggressive Driving—  
Report Online at**  
[https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ps/police/traf\\_sfty\\_report.htm](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ps/police/traf_sfty_report.htm)



#### PHONE NUMBERS

**Fairfax County Crime  
Solvers :**  
1-866-411-TIPS

**Fairfax County Police  
Non-Emergency:**  
703-691-2131

**Sully District Crime  
Prevention Office:**  
703-814-7018  
or  
703-814-7048

**Child Car Seat  
Installation:**  
**Sully District Station**  
703-814-7000 x 5140

**Citizen Reporting System  
(to file reports only)**  
703-691-2131



# Business Security Surveys

This is just a reminder: The Fairfax County Police Department, in addition to Home Security Inspections, does Business Security Surveys free of charge. Here is a brief description of this service:

A qualified, trained Fairfax County Police officer or auxiliary officer will inspect the locks, doors and windows of your business with you. Exterior lighting, landscaping and other factors affecting the protection of your business from burglary also will be reviewed. The officer will make recommendations for improving your business' security. These recommendations will be provided in writing to allow you to review and implement them at your own pace.

Contact either Crime Prevention Officer at the Sully District Station to arrange your free inspection.



You are invited to join the Fairfax County Police Department's new Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT) organization. The Sully District Station has formed a small group of interested and motivated individuals as a core for the district's SALT Council. SALT Councils act as an advisory group from their specific geographical regions. All of the SALT Councils then come together to form the Triad for the entire county.

The goal of Triad is to reduce the fear of crime and victimization among seniors, increase awareness of scams and frauds targeting seniors, strengthen communication between the law enforcement and senior communities and educate seniors on local and state resources that are available in their communities.

To make this program work, we need more members. Please step up and let your voice be heard. Participants play an important role in collaborating with the public safety community. Volunteer today! We really need your support to keep this program going. Our next meeting will be held at the Sully Senior Center, 5690 Sully Road, Centreville, VA on April 8 at 11:00 a.m.

For more information and to learn how to get involved call MPO W. M. Brock at 703-814-7048 or PFC P. B. Katinsky at 703-814-7018. You can also e-mail us at [wbroc1@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:wbroc1@fairfaxcounty.gov) or [pkatin@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:pkatin@fairfaxcounty.gov)

This document is available in an alternative format upon request. Please call the Fairfax County Police Department at 703-246-7562. TTY 703-204-2264. Allow seven working days for preparation of the material.

Newsletter compiled by MPO W. M. Brock